

Mike Sylvester
Peaks Island
LD 463

Testimony LD 463

Senator Daughtry and esteemed members of the Labor and Housing Committee, thank you for letting me testify on LD 463, "An Act To Better House Maine Residents. The need for this bill was clearly seen in previous Committees earlier bills dealing with arsenic and the program overseen by the Maine State Housing Authority. It is clear that perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl, or PFAS, of the soil and groundwater for households is an enormous problem. This bill seeks to solve the problem of identifying PFAS in soil and groundwater at the point of sale of a property on which food will be grown.

The Department of Environmental protection oversees a remediation program and this bill does not seek to replicate that program. What it is looking to do is to provide state funded testing when a property that is intended as an agricultural operation or on which the owner intends to grow a substantial portion of their food for consumption such as gardens, etc.

As you know, the Maine people passed a Constitutional Right to Food last year and this bill seeks to build upon that right by allowing people to buy property with the knowledge of whether PFAS chemicals exist in the soil and water. It allocates \$1,000,000 from surplus funds to do so.

With that, I am happy to answer any questions.

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